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This Month in UT Tyler History

University Archives and Special Collections

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Fall 10-1-2015

# October 2015

University Archives and Special Collections Department

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UNIVERSITY  
ARCHIVES AND  
SPECIAL  
COLLECTIONS

FEATURED EXHIBITS  
(OCTOBER 2015)

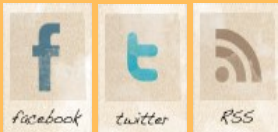
- ◆ **The Development of the UT Tyler Theatre Department** featuring production programs and photographs.

*On Display at the Library*

MEET THE STAFF

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# This Month in UT Tyler History

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2015

## Ten Years Ago (October 2005)

### Faculty Committee Conducts Theater Hearings

Fourteen students, four faculty members and one administrator spoke before the Theatre Review Committee and up to 20 audience members on October 12-13 in the Braithwaite Recital Hall. Provost Rick Osburn appointed the committee of senior faculty and staff members on September 20 to gather information and review other findings in an effort to make a recommendation about the program's future. The program was in limbo since Theatre was dropped as a major in 2003. Osburn, who began working for the University in the spring of 2004, said he needed to familiarize himself with the history of the program and assess its present level of performance before dealing with "issues" surrounding the 2003 decision. "I have not rushed to judgement, and I have spent many hours reviewing past actions of the program and the college," Osburn wrote in a September memo announcing the committee's creation. "I have tried to assess reasons for difficulties that the program has encountered and the poor recruitment of students into the program." Dr. Lucas Niiler, Assistant Professor of English, served as the chairman of the committee which limited input to current University faculty, staff, students, and administrators. The committee accepted oral and written reports or opinions for their consideration. The committee consisted of the following faculty: Gary Hatcher, Chairman of the Art Department, Dr. Pam Martin, Assistant Dean of Nursing, Dr. Mark Miller, Technology Professor, and Dr. Catherine Ross, Assistant Professor of English. Dr. Barbara Hart, Chairman of the Department of Social Sciences, and Mary Barr, the Compliance Director, were also named to the committee, but did not participate in the hearing. Hart was absent from the hearings, while Barr withdrew from the committee, citing a possible conflict of interest with her job. *By Adrienne Graham, Patriot Talon, October 24, 2005.*

## Twenty Years Ago (October 1995)

### Kniffen Elected to NAIA Hall of Fame

Coach Fred Kniffen was elected to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Award recognized Kniffen for exemplifying the highest ideals of intercollegiate athletics, and is the NAIA's highest honor. Kniffen received the NAIA Coach of the Year Award in 1994 and the Wilson Coach of the Year Award in 1987. Under his leadership, UT Tyler won NAIA championships in 1989 and 1994. Kniffen was a member of the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Hardin-Simmons University Hall of Fame. He was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in a formal presentation at the Tennis National Championship Banquet in Tulsa, Oklahoma in May 1996.



**RECYCLING SAVES** — Mark Ricks of Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI), and Pat Williams of UT Tyler's physical plant, discuss the university's recycling program. UT Tyler has saved 173 trees since the program began in June, with approximately 10 tons of paper collected on campus, according to Williams. BFI, with whom the university has a recycling contract, considers one ton of paper equivalent to 17 trees. Recycling receptacles are located near all office copiers, as well as those designated for student use.

# Thirty Years Ago (October 1985)

## Speaker's Bureau Published

UT Tyler's new speaker's bureau publication was published by the Public Information Office. Copies were made available for reference in each dean's office. Designed for area civic groups and news media, the publication listed faculty and professional staff members who were qualified to speak on topics related to their academic fields. The brochure was provided at no charge to community organizations, newspapers, and radio and television stations in the East Texas area. Faculty and professional staff members indicated which topics they were willing to speak on during a photo session at fall registration. A 100 percent response (all full-time faculty) was received from six departments: art, biology, chemistry, medical technology, music, and technology. A total of 81 speakers and 80 topics are listed.

## Philanthropist J.S. Hudnall Dies

J.S. Hudnall, Tyler philanthropist and longtime friend of UT Tyler, died October 2 in a Tyler hospital. He was 88. Hudnall was one of three donors of land for the University campus. A member of the President's Associates, he served on the Development Board and Educational Foundation. In 1982 Hudnall created the J.S. Hudnall Professorship in American Affairs and the J.S. Hudnall Professorship in Energy and Technology. He established the J.S. Hudnall Scholarship for Exemplary Leadership and Citizenship that same year.

# Forty Years Ago (October 1975)

## Mascot Advisory Committee Appointed

Five people were appointed by President Stewart to serve on the TEU Mascot Advisory Committee. Tom Turns was elected chairman of the group. Other members included Mrs. Toni Crawford as staff representative, Gerald Hogue as graduate student representative, Miss Sheryl McClendon as undergraduate student representative, and F. Robbie Williams as faculty representative. President Stewart said that "this committee is a representative group from the university community, and I trust that this will serve to enhance the interest and concern of all individuals throughout the institution in making suggestions relative to the matter of mascot selection." Final approval of a mascot was made by the Board of Regents.

## University Archives and Special Collections

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

and by appointment

The University Archives and Special Collections Department (UASC), located on the ground floor of the Robert R. Muntz Library, retains materials of archival and/or historical interest to The University of Texas at Tyler and the surrounding community.